



**CITY OF DANBURY  
FIRE DEPARTMENT  
19 NEW STREET  
DANBURY, CONNECTICUT 06810**

**T. J. Wiedl  
Fire Chief**

**Phone 203-796-1550  
Fax 203-796-1552**

**FIRE CHIEF'S MONTHLY REPORT**

I hereby submit my report as Fire Chief of the Danbury Fire Department, which covers the period of June 21<sup>st</sup>, 2015 through July 21<sup>st</sup>, 2015 and details activities of the Department.

We began our annual hydrant testing in May. If you see the trucks on the road in your neighborhood we are just making sure that the hydrants perform. The tests we do are to check the functioning of the hydrant. Very little water is actually flowed. In the event a hydrant is deficient in some manner, the water department is notified and repairs are made. Through frequent and direct cooperation with the water department, this program has proven highly effective in discovering issues and correcting the problems before they become critical.

Although it is after the Fourth of July, many fireworks are still available. Please use any fireworks in accordance with manufacturers' instructions and never allow young children to light or carry any fireworks.

Please take note of the weather and if you are planning to be outside, be safe. Wear appropriate clothing when grilling and using fire pits. Wear sunscreen as needed and proper protective gear such as bicycle helmets. Have a happy and safe summer!

**Public Education / Prevention / Public Relations**

Engine companies gave fire safety presentations for the Danbury PAL summer camp, Danbury Library's summer reading program, and at Kinder Care.

A detailed tour of the new Regional Hospice Center was completed.



D-group tours Regional Hospice

### **Suppression / Response Activities of Note**

Crews responded to a structure fire at 27 Crow's Nest Lane in Birchwood Condominiums. Very rapid deployment of hose lines to floors 1 and 2, both charged with smoke, coupled with the quick opening up of floor 1 ceiling and floor 2 floor, enabled firefighters to quickly extinguish a fire in the first floor ceiling. These actions greatly reduced the amount of damage caused by the fire.

E24 responded to a call of an elderly female trapped in her car at 90 Beaver Brook Rd. E24 pulled alongside car and lifted the woman from the car, which was trapped in flood water, and placed her into E24 and removed her to a place of safety. The tow truck arrived and removed the car and gave the woman a ride to her destination. The woman was unharmed.

Crews responded to a kitchen fire at Laurel Gardens, with the residents evacuating the entire building rapidly and fire crews extinguishing the fire quickly.

E26 assisted the Ct State Police Major Crime Squad with their investigation of a vehicle from an accident at the City Airport Hangar.

A two car accident in front of Jimmy's Market required the use of our new battery powered Hurst "Jaws of Life" to remove one driver.



### **Command and Staff Activities**

- Weekly Dispatch oversight meetings with IXP and the PD
- City Council Meeting
- Firefighters vs. Police Softball game
- Mayor's Cup Golf Tournament
- Civil Service Recruitment meeting and Exam Prep for entry level firefighters and Communications Supervisor
- Contractor's meetings for new Classroom Building
- Dispatch Summit meeting
- Volunteer Council meeting
- Monthly staff meeting

### **Communications/911 – Provisional Communications Supervisor Rich Gallagher**

Radio communications

Recent additions to the Fire Department radio infrastructure - FCI and Spruce Mountain - are online and providing additional radio coverage for these locations. Danbury Fire is now in the planning stages of its next radio infrastructure upgrade. This will include converting all radio equipment over to UHF and adding additional transmit and receive sites to further improve radio coverage for the City.

Dispatch

Communications is working closely with IXP on streamlining the dispatch operation to improve the overall process.

### **Training – Training Officer Steve Rogers**

#### ***Volunteer Division***

Quarterly

Second quarter training ended in mid-July with 102 volunteers attending the classes.

Firefighter I

Testing has been completed. The Firefighter 1 class result was four green tags, five yellow tags, and one red tag.

ICS

A live fire drill was conducted on 7-20-15. Great care was taken to establish cool zones and firefighter rehab for modest heat exposure. The drill was a success. We implemented the new ICS SOP and are eager to continue training until go live.

#### ***Career Division***

Foam Training

We've begun training with the foam trailer housed at Engine Company 26. This regional asset provides Danbury and the region the ability to mitigate various hazards. We are training on foam material, equipment, operations, and application.

### ICS

Classes along with table top drills still continue with all personnel. We've incorporated the new ICS SOP as part of our curriculum.

### Airport

Airport familiarization classes have started and the entire department has been scheduled to train on site at the airport.

### Advanced Ropes Class

Danbury hosted a state certified advanced ropes class. A total of twenty participated with seven from Danbury. The participants and instructors were exceptional and we are eager to engage in training with Danbury Fire participants to help maintain skill proficiencies.



FF Mourges



FF McFadden

### ARFF

ARFF practical has been scheduled for September 15, 2015 at Westover AFB in Massachusetts. There are currently 15 individuals scheduled to attend training.

### Kaplan

We have begun assigning Kaplan courses for entire Department. Courses that are currently assigned are Airport re-familiarization, ARFF, and Foam Trailer operations.

## Fire School

The fire school on 23 Plumtrees Rd was utilized for the Firefighter I class and Foam training. A/C Omasta had the classroom trailer moved and utilities disconnected.

## ARFF review

Our Airport Rescue Firefighters are scheduled for their annual refresher training at Danbury Airport with Asst. Airport Administrator Mike Safranek.

## Hydrants

We currently have over 50 percent of the City's hydrants tested.

## Items of Note:

- D-group Toured new Regional Hospice building
- Fire School Classroom Construction documents are almost complete
- Engine 26 and TO Rogers facilitated a tour for at-risk youths from New York City of Engine 26 station. The sponsoring group was Jet Blue.

## Meetings/Events for the T.O.

- Toured Fire Schools with FF Gagilardo in Dutchess County, Putnam County and East Fishkill
- Leadership Danbury at the Matrix and Belimo
- Conference with Jim Redgate from Kaplan
- Staff meeting with D-group

## **Apparatus / Equipment – Superintendent Joe Cavo**

The New Truck-1 had a failure of the inlet temperature sensor in the after-treatment device which is part of the emissions system; Atlantic Detroit Diesel supplied the part under warranty and we replaced it here at headquarters.

Fit testing for the Volunteers is complete. This year we fit tested 109 career and 96 volunteer personnel. Per Connecticut Regulations we had to have the vapor recovery system for our gasoline dispensing unit de-commissioned. We have received a purchase order number and have contacted the vendor to schedule the vacuum leak test that will complete the de-commissioning. The A/C compressors for E-24 and E-25 have arrived and have been installed just ahead of the three day heat wave.

## Other repairs completed:

- Replaced DEF Dispensing pump that was supplied under warranty

- Replaced battery in 13FE
- Repaired air cord reel in Squad-1
- Serviced E-25 oil and filters
- Installed Officers portable charger in new Trk-1
- Repaired ladder damage to Truck-2
- Addressed E-24 transmission issues
- Assembled 25' LDH hoses for front suction
- Replaced EGR valve, EGR Cooler and coolant in E-24
- Serviced Onan generator Truck-2
- Inspection of Truck-1 ball joints, open warranty order with Pierce

## **Community Risk Reduction Office of the Fire Marshal – Fire Marshal Jim Russell**

### **Staff**

DFMs Jordan Leach, John Osborne, and Gary Bruce have now been certified by the State Department of Energy & Environmental Protection (DEEP) as Open Burning Officials for the City of Danbury. Jordan Leach has also gained his recertification for his EMT. Jordan has been working on the Danbury Fair Mall Solar project. He has also worked with UTC on Emergency Planning after doing a fire inspection on the building.

### **Inspections**

This month we inspected 150 apartments. We also did 7 misc. inspections, 3 liquor inspections, 8 places of assembly, 18 businesses, 7 day care, and 26 educational occupancies. There were 7 health care inspections. We also did 5 mercantile inspections. We will increase our numbers as our staff rebuilds to full strength.

### **Plan Reviews**

Our team continues to spend time doing plan reviews. This month we spent 20 hours reviewing plans for several store fit outs in the Danbury Fair Mall, including the Sears Store, T-Mobile, and Anthropology. Renovations at Immaculate High School and the Edge Fitness Club (the old Expect Discount Store) are underway.

### **Fire Investigations**

This month we had 11 fire investigations. There were 6 building fires, 2 vehicle fires, and 8 rubbish/dumpster fires.

### **Three Family and Above Fire Inspections**

Letters were sent to all residents that streets begin with “C” and “D”. We have received some calls, and completed some inspections on these streets. We continue to try and inspect as many three families and above as possible.

### **Public Presentations**

The Fire Marshal's Office gave Fire Safety Presentations to the Perisphere Corporation. Fire Extinguisher Training was also given to approx. 20 people. Public Education was also given to the Prestone Corporation (approx. 40 people). Also, a Fire Safety presentation was given to the Horizons Program at WestConn (approx. 25 people). Thanks to Engine 23 crew, Lt. Silk, FF Tomchik, and FF Krikorian.

### School Inspections

We have completed the public school inspections and will now focus on the private schools.

### Good Deeds

DFM Jordan Leach was leaving City Hall when he heard a call on the radio of a child accidentally locked in a car in the parking lot. Jordan sprang into action with his own lock out kit, and freed the child from the car. The child was unharmed.

### Illegal Fire Works

On July 1, 2015, the CT State Police Fire Investigation and Explosion Division joined our office along with the CT State Police Bomb Squad, the Danbury Police Department, and the FBI. We were acting on several complaints of illegal fireworks. The suspect was believed to be selling large amounts of illegal fireworks from his house. A Search and Seizure Warrant was obtained, and approximately \$250,000 worth of illegal fireworks was seized. Also seized were a computer, records, drugs, and a large amount of cash. Arrests will follow. Four enclosed trailers were filled and seized from the owners. The State Police seized all fireworks and discarded properly.

### Bacon & Brew Event at City Center

Two Deputy Fire Marshals were at this event for public safety. We inspected the vendors' tents for safety as well as the egress gates around the venue. Exit signs had to be put in place at the gates for public safety.

## Department Statistical Reports

### Community Risk Reduction

Monthly inspections	234
Abatements issued	1
Violations issued	0
Complaints	2
Fire Investigations	11
Fire Safety Programs	5

### Public Safety Answering Point

Total 911 calls	3078
Abandoned 911 calls	382
Cellular 911 calls	2199
Admin calls received	850